Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility

Government of the Northwest Territories Strategic Plan

2005 Progress Report

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Message from the Premier

In June 2004, the Government of the Northwest Territories released its Strategic Plan entitled *Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility.* This Plan was based on a vision for the Northwest Territories established by the 15th Legislative Assembly, and it sets the broad direction for government over a 10-year planning horizon.

In the sixteen months since the introduction of the Strategic Plan, much has been accomplished. The purpose of this *2005 Progress Report* is to provide you with information on our progress to date.

One of the most important aspects of the Strategic Plan is that it is a living document – responsive and adaptable to the changing circumstances of the Northwest Territories. This report is intended to take stock of where we are in advancing our goals and achieving our vision. As one partner in the process (along with other governments, organizations, families, individuals and communities), it is important that we review our progress, and look for ways to refocus our priorities and strengthen our efforts in those areas where it is most needed. It takes all partners to work together and to each do their part. We all need to be diligent and continue doing our part to improve the living conditions for all residents.

The *2005 Progress Report* demonstrates many areas of success in meeting the challenges before us. Notable examples include the increase in overall graduation rates to over 50% in 2004/05 – continuing the trend of improved graduation rates we have seen over the past decade – and improved education levels generally. Youth and adult smoking rates in the territory appear to be declining, family incomes are rising, physical activity levels are at or above national rates, and injury-related deaths are in a downward trend.

While these trends are promising, many challenges remain. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight discussed many of these challenges in its Report on Pre-Budget Consultations released earlier this session.

This Progress Report is intended to help identify where we may need to adjust our actions or approaches to meet these challenges. We all know that some external factors have changed dramatically in the intervening months since the release of the Strategic Plan – rising energy costs are an example of areas that clearly affect us but are largely out of our control. While the Strategic Plan has a 10-year horizon, we will need to sharpen our focus as a Legislative Assembly and government if we are to continue to make measurable progress over the remaining two years of our term in office.

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I would like to extend my appreciation and give thanks to those who are partnering with us to make the Northwest Territories a prosperous and enviable place to live and raise our families. The work, support and cooperation of northern leaders, members of the northern business community, labour, the volunteer sector, non-profit organizations, and many others is critical if we are to advance our common interests.

I would also like to pay tribute to the dedication of my colleagues, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, who remain committed to a vision of the Northwest Territories that meets the aspirations of all our residents. Similarly, I must acknowledge the hard work of the GNWT public service, whose effort has contributed in large part to the progress we have made.

It is my pleasure to present the Strategic Plan *2005 Progress Report* and I look forward to our continued work to build a strong, vibrant and self-reliant Northwest Territories.

Premier Joseph Handley

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Introduction

When the 15th Legislative Assembly took office in December 2003, Members made a commitment to find new ways of doing business. They agreed to work together to make consensus government more effective and responsive to the needs of NWT residents. They also agreed to work in partnership with other governments in the NWT to build an agenda that has a broad base of support across the territory.

The 15th Legislative Assembly adopted a vision and set of goals that focus on self-reliance and shared responsibility, and convey a sense of optimism and confidence about the future of the NWT. Building upon this theme, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) developed the Strategic Plan – *Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility* – that sets out priorities and actions for the GNWT over a 10-year planning timeframe.

Vision

Self-reliant individuals and families sharing the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories.

Goals

1. *A strong northern voice and identity.*
2. *Healthy, educated people living in safe communities, who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities.*
3. *Well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential.*
4. *A diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices.*
5. *Care and protection of the natural environment.*

This plan was released in June 2004 after taking time to meet, discuss and share ideas with residents, communities, the business sector and leaders from across the NWT. The document was broadly distributed throughout the NWT, and made available through the Legislative Assembly, MLA constituency offices, municipal offices, schools and non-governmental organizations. French and English versions of the full Strategic Plan and summary posters in all 11 Official Languages are also available online at:
http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html

Setting the Broad Direction for Government

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to set the broad direction for government by identifying priorities and actions in support of the goals of the Legislative Assembly. Underlying these priorities and actions are core values supported by the GNWT that should be reflected in the every day work we do on behalf of the people of the NWT. These core values are:

- Self-reliance;
- Partnership;
- Accountability;
- Respect;
- Identity; and,
- Integrity.

The Strategic Plan is linked to the government's business planning process by setting the broad direction for the development of business plans by GNWT departments. These planning documents identify the work and priorities of the government over a three-year timeframe, and are used in the creation of the government's budget and main estimates that are tabled and debated in the Legislative Assembly at the start of each year.

Four Key Priorities

The Strategic Plan has four priority areas that are of key importance during the life of this government:

1. *Helping people help themselves – our personal, family and community responsibilities;*
2. *Negotiating fair deals with Canada and Aboriginal governments;*
3. *Focusing on our economy and infrastructure; and,*
4. *Environmental stewardship.*

These priorities are followed by specific goals which have anticipated results and concrete, identifiable actions. As with all of the actions identified in the plan, individuals, families, communities, the private sector and governments will need to work together to make progress in each area.

Measuring Results

This progress report presents key activities and achievements of this government that support the vision, goals and priorities of the Strategic Plan. Highlights are summarized under the four priorities, with more detail provided in the appendix.

Over the last year, considerable effort has gone into the development of statistical measures corresponding to each of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan. These measures provide government with a means to evaluate – in a tangible way – progress in achieving these goals.

The development of these measures is, in itself, an important milestone as it enhances this government's ability to analyze and understand trends and conduct socio-economic analyses. This work helps to inform government decisions. It can provide accurate information for the development of programs that can be targeted to address specific needs. It also will, over the long-term, improve our ability to assess significant factors in our operating environment, such as the impact of development on communities.

Highlights of select measures are presented in this report, with more detailed information included in the *2005 Compendium of NWT-Wide Measures*.

Highlights of Progress

Priority 1: Helping people help themselves – our personal, family and community responsibilities

Helping residents of the NWT to make healthy lifestyle choices, to realize their full potential and to lead fulfilling and productive lives is the foundation of the government's Strategic Plan. Priority #1 includes the following areas:

- *Educating ourselves – improving education levels for children and adults;*
- *Meeting our housing needs – addressing housing shortages and homelessness;*
- *Living healthy lifestyles – breaking addictions and making productive and healthy choices; and,*
- *Supporting greater community autonomy – negotiating a new deal with community governments.*

Highlights of Accomplishments

The GNWT continues to spend the vast majority of its budget on social programs. More than $695 million (or 70%) of the GNWT's operating expenditures for 2005 were for social and community programs. The territorial government has increased spending in this area by 40% since 1999 as part of its ongoing responsibility to provide access to a wide range of social programs in support of people in need.

While this clearly indicates a commitment to the goal of *"healthy, educated people living in safe communities, who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities"*, it is important that spending on social programs be done in such a way that it empowers people to contribute to society to their fullest potential. Governments need to do their part to invest in social programs to ensure that members of the public have a solid social support system for their full involvement and participation in society, and that those most in need continue to be provided with the basic necessities of life.

An example of helping people help themselves is the *Healthy Choices* initiative. Encouraging young people to adopt healthy lifestyle habits while they are still young is a proactive way to reduce health risks and ultimately future impacts on the health care system. GNWT departments have pooled resources and are working together to promote healthy lifestyles related to healthy eating and physical activity; using *Get Active NWT* funding for summer and winter awareness campaigns; and implementing an educational curriculum in schools across the NWT.

The health and social services system and key stakeholders are also building a continuum of integrated mental health and addictions services. Community counseling programs, including community-based integrated mental health and addiction counseling programs, have been successfully implemented in communities and regions.

Effecting social change takes generations, but we appear to be moving in the right direction in many important areas. Trends like improved graduation rates and improved education levels are encouraging. In addition, youth and adult smoking rates in the territory appear to be declining, family incomes are rising, physical activity levels are at or above national rates, and injury-related deaths are on a downward trend. While these trends are promising, much work remains to be done to improve social conditions in the NWT.

Family violence takes a terrible toll on northern families and communities. The GNWT and its partners have made considerable progress towards implementing activities recommended by the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence in the *NWT Action Plan on Family Violence*. The GNWT identified 72 actions in its response to the Coalition's Action Plan, and is working with partners to complete these actions. This type of cooperative approach to addressing this serious social issue shows how government and non-governmental agencies can collaborate to bring about change, because we all agree that the status quo is not acceptable.

With the NWT's rate of family violence being five times the national average, it is our collective responsibility to help those at risk. In April 2005, the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* came into effect. The enactment of this important legislation is one of the actions identified in the GNWT's response. With this new legislation in place, victims of family violence have the means to access protection under the law, such as emergency protection orders, that were previously unavailable to them. This legislation is just one of a number of actions completed by the government.

As part of a three-year program, the GNWT has also increased policing positions over the last two years to increase the number of police on the front lines to deal with crime. This investment provides our police force with additional resources on our highways and in our communities to prevent crime, assist victims of family violence, register sex offenders, build relationships, support community justice initiatives and help residents build safer communities for themselves and their families. There has also been a dramatic increase in community justice activities, a good example of communities helping themselves.

Complex social issues do not have easy answers. It will take generations, creative approaches and people and agencies working together to find solutions. Individuals, communities, organizations and governments must combine their efforts to reduce crime, improve graduation rates, eliminate family violence, and better the social conditions and lives of people living in the NWT. We must continue to work in partnership to achieve our vision of *"self-reliant individuals and families sharing the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories"*.

A big part of helping communities help themselves comes through helping them achieve increased independence and autonomy. Real progress has been made in this respect. In the Strategic Plan, the GNWT committed to a "new deal" for community governments, which would involve expanding the authority and accountability of community governments. This new deal would also provide communities access to increased revenues, both federal and territorial, and greater control over infrastructure development.

Significant funds have been identified to enhance community capacity in a number of ways. The GNWT has established a dedicated budget for community infrastructure. Starting in the 2006-07, the GNWT has increased funding levels for community infrastructure in order to provide a stable funding base of $25 million per year for infrastructure development in communities. In 2005-06, an additional $1 million will be available to assist communities to plan for the effective use of this increased infrastructure funding. Another $39 million of federal, territorial, and community matching funds have been mobilized for projects under the Municipal, Rural Infrastructure Fund. A $35 million, one-time *Community Capacity Building Fund* has been developed to encourage local governments to work together to pursue projects that will benefit their community as a whole.

A major theme at the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting in April this year was the need to help communities deal with development. The federal government identified a $500 million *Socio-economic Impact Fund* to address socio-economic impacts associated with the Mackenzie Gas Project, and another $1.295 million has been provided by the GNWT to assist communities in preparing strategies to maximize benefits and minimize the potential negative impacts of this development. The GNWT has also sponsored several conferences, including a pipeline conference in Inuvik, in direct response to a desire of communities to engage in dialogue and share information surrounding the pipeline.

The steps that the territorial government has taken to support increased community autonomy will help to achieve the Strategic Plan goal of *"well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential."* As with all other aspects of the Strategic Plan, the GNWT's success in this area depends on the continued cooperation and support of many partners, including Aboriginal and community governments, the federal government, northern leaders and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Priority 2: Negotiating fair deals with Canada and Aboriginal governments

The NWT aspires to finalize a unique system of governance – one that respects the rights of all citizens of the NWT, and achieves the aspirations of Aboriginal peoples through the implementation of self-government agreements. Priority #2 includes the following areas:

- *Benefiting from the development of northern resources – concluding fair devolution and resource revenue sharing agreements with Canada;*

- *Conducting unfinished business – settling outstanding land, resources and self-government agreements; and,*
- *Negotiating, through the devolution process, authority for northern governments over the regulatory regime – establishing consistent standards and practices.*

Highlights of Accomplishments

The GNWT remains committed to doing its part to ensure that outstanding Aboriginal rights agreements are settled across the NWT, and those that have been settled are implemented in accordance with the obligations set out in the agreements. Aboriginal rights agreements are an essential component of building mutually respectful intergovernmental relations and providing certainty and clarity to a complex governance system.

The Tłı̨chǫ government is now established and we are taking steps to develop productive working relationships between our two governments. Others, like Deline, are getting close to finalizing their self-government agreement. The finalization and implementation of self-government and land claim agreements up and down the Mackenzie Valley is crucial to the future of a strong and self-reliant Northwest Territories.

The Strategic Plan also calls for the negotiation of fair devolution and resource-revenue sharing agreements with Canada. While we have not yet completed an agreement-in-principle, we have made significant progress and have narrowed the outstanding issues. This is one area where further effort will need to be focused over the coming months.

Since the Strategic Plan was developed, the federal government has made significant changes to our formula financing arrangements, which provide the GNWT's largest source of revenues. Interim funding arrangements provide fixed funding amounts for 2004-05 and 2005-06, and an Expert Panel has been commissioned to provide recommendations to the federal Minister of Finance on how funding to the territories should be structured. The GNWT has made it a priority to ensure that the Panel members understand the unique needs and circumstances of the NWT, and how funding arrangements must reflect these needs.

Tangible progress has been achieved in convincing Canada, with the support of provinces, that a strict per capita allocation approach to dividing federal program funding amongst provinces and territories does not work for the territories. A per capita allocation means that funding is allocated only on the basis of population, and does not take into account any other factors. This funding approach always places the NWT at a disadvantage – we have a very small population relative to other parts of the country, yet we cover a large geographic area and have to contend with huge infrastructure, travel, fuel and other expenditures that affect our program costs. Our per capita share is typically insufficient and does not compensate for the much higher program delivery costs, which are a reality in the territories.

However, we have made real progress in negotiating funding that is not solely based on per capita funding. This is evident in such examples as the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the Territorial Health Access Fund, and the proposed federal Gas Tax initiative, all of which have adopted a blended allocation formula (a base fund plus per capita allocation).

Making our voices heard at the national level is very important in advancing our interests. Over the last year in particular, the NWT has gained a higher profile and taken on a far more significant role at the national level. The NWT is co-leading two major national initiatives on behalf of all premiers – one on a *National Energy Strategy* and one on a *Pan-Canadian Transportation Strategy*. Being part of and leading such national initiatives gives us an edge when it comes to promoting such interests as building a road to the Arctic Coast (Tuktoyaktuk). The NWT is also co-leading a western initiative with Manitoba on the development of a *Western Aboriginal Training Strategy*. By co-leading these initiatives, the NWT can ensure that a northern perspective is brought to the table at the earliest stages of development.

The NWT has also been a strong supporter of engaging Aboriginal leaders in regional and national discussions amongst Premiers in areas of particular interest to both public and Aboriginal governments. For example, when the NWT chaired the Western Premiers' Conference in Inuvik in 2004, regional Aboriginal leaders were invited to join Premiers for part of the conference. This move set an important precedent for intergovernmental meetings of this nature.

Continuing the dialogue amongst all leaders is the way forward, and in the NWT we are leading by example. The Circle of Northern Leaders has met twice since its inauguration in 2004 and was a good forum for recent discussions on the Northern Strategy. The GNWT views this as a priority and will continue this effective engagement of Northern Leaders. It is the means by which we will continue to work together with mutual trust and respect, and bring forward a strong and united northern voice and identity, a goal of the Strategic Plan.

Priority 3: Focusing on our economy and infrastructure

In order to make the NWT truly vibrant and prosperous, we must reduce our economic dependence on the federal government while diversifying our economy and reducing the high cost of northern living. Priority #3 includes the following areas:

- *Diversifying our economy – supporting small businesses, traditional economies, agriculture development and fisheries, and expanding our tourism sector;*
- *Enhancing accessibility to markets – improving transportation and community infrastructure;*
- *Reducing the cost of living in the north – finding ways to lower transportation, utility, communications, and land costs; and,*
- *Maximizing northern benefits from the proposed pipeline – ensuring Northerners have the skills to take advantage of the economic*

opportunities associated with the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Highlights of Accomplishments

The GNWT is doing its part to create an environment that is conducive to economic development. We recognize the importance of a diversified economy that has growth and opportunity in a number of sectors, not only the non-renewable resource sector. The creation of the new Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment was key for the government to help focus and achieve this priority.

This new department is making significant progress in the development of an NWT Tourism Plan with involvement from private and public tourism industry partners. This plan, expected to be completed in the spring of 2006, identifies five key areas for investment:

- Marketing;
- Product development;
- Infrastructure;
- Human resource training; and,
- Research and planning.

The NWT participated in *EXPO 2005*, held in Japan, in cooperation with partners from the NWT private sector. This venue successfully raised the NWT's international profile as a tourism destination of choice for world travelers.

The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs program has been selected as an award recipient at the prestigious 2004 Ontario Global Traders Awards. This program provides harvesting support to trappers, and markets NWT wild fur pelts to buyers as furs of the highest quality. The recognition of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs through this award reinforces the NWT as a first class exporter of goods.

The Business Development and Investment Corporation was established under legislation April 1, 2005, as a Crown Corporation of the GNWT in order to streamline operations and make it easier for businesses – particularly those located in smaller communities or regional centers – to take advantage of the many existing and future opportunities resulting from our rapidly growing economy. This new corporation amalgamated the business services of the NWT Development Corporation, Community Futures, the Business Credit Corporation, various GNWT business programs and the services of the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre for a one-stop business shop. The Corporation encourages the creation and development of business enterprises, and provides information and financial assistance to such enterprises. It promotes the financial independence of NWT businesses and assists communities in capturing economic development opportunities to help create a diverse and viable northern economy.

Reducing the cost of living is a major task, and one that must be approached from many fronts, such as energy, housing, food, and transportation. Inadequate infrastructure is a common cause of the high costs experienced in all of these areas. To address this problem, the GNWT has been making significant investments in, for example, improving NWT highways. There is progress on specific sections of Highways 1, 4, 7, and 8. Further work is being done on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road brides, grade improvements, and design work for the new Bear River bridge. Work is also nearing completion on Highway #3 from Behchoko to Yellowknife. To date, over half of the $130 million joint NWT-Canada project funding for these improvements has been spent.

Considerable time and resources have been spent in preparation for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. The sheer magnitude and scope of this development is unprecedented, and requires focused planning and attention by the GNWT to ensure the NWT is in a position to benefit from this development while mitigating negative impacts to the land, wildlife and people. Highlights of preparatory activities include:

- Participating in the National Energy Board review;
- Participating in the Joint Review Panel process;
- Participating in socio-economic agreement negotiations;
- Preparing and implementing GNWT initiatives in support of the pipeline, including support for training programs, investing in infrastructure, and planning and implementing programs for community support;
- Working with the federal government and Aboriginal organizations to establish a *Socio-Economic Impact Fund*;
- Signing a Regulators Agreement, designed to improve the efficiency of the regulatory process and to bring consistency to all governments, boards, and agencies involved; and,
- Providing support to communities to assist them in preparing for the *Mackenzie Gas Project*.

Working with our partners, the GNWT also helped to bring $500 million in federal funding to the North for communities affected by the pipeline. Engaging in this type of partnership helps ensure Northerners are the primary beneficiaries of the development of resources, an important goal of the Strategic Plan. Similarly, a balanced approach to economic and infrastructure development will help ensure we reach our goal of a diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices.

Priority 4: Environmental stewardship

The Northwest Territories is a vast and beautiful place, largely untouched by urban development. It is a pristine natural environment that should be managed and protected for generations to come. Priority #4 includes the following areas:

- *Protecting our air, water, forest, and land – facilitating responsible development of non-renewable and renewable resources;*
- *Building an efficient and effective energy sector – providing clean and affordable energy to northern consumers and encouraging conservation; and,*
- *Remediating contaminated sites throughout the NWT – encouraging the federal government to rehabilitate abandoned contaminated sites on federal land in a timely manner and to acceptable environmental standards.*

Highlights of Accomplishments

One of the most significant accomplishments of the GNWT under this priority is the creation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This new department is dedicated to promoting and supporting the sustainable use and development of natural resources, and to protecting, conserving and enhancing the NWT's natural environment.

A key initiative of this new department is the *Beverage Container Recycling Program* – a recycling program designed to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills in the NWT. This new program will be implemented on November 1, 2005.

In March 2005, the GNWT signed a Cooperation Agreement with Canada to provide for the remediation of the Giant Mine site. The GNWT contribution to this initiative is $23 million over 10 years.

The GNWT has also invested in feasibility studies to explore the NWT's hydro potential. Investment in clean energy sources such as hydroelectric power will help to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and control our own greenhouse gas emissions.

With the establishment of the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the GNWT has positioned itself to move forward on a number of initiatives related to the responsible, coordinated management of our natural resources. This is a responsibility that the territorial government shares with others – we must continue to work with the federal government, Aboriginal organizations and other regulatory bodies to ensure that impacts are mitigated and environmental standards are maintained. As noted in the Strategic Plan, the wise use and conservation of energy and resources is a responsibility that we each share – as governments, industries and individuals.

NWT-Wide Measures

The GNWT has identified a set of NWT-wide measures to help gauge progress towards the goals identified in the Strategic Plan. These measures are not specific to the GNWT, as it is important to reflect overall progress of the NWT in achieving these goals. As well, the Strategic Plan was developed for a 10-year horizon, and the measures selected are geared to assess change over this timeframe rather than on a yearly basis.

These measures should help to answer some basic planning questions associated with the Strategic Plan including:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- How will we know we are getting there?

Providing historical trends and making comparisons to Canada (where appropriate) helps answer these questions.

Primary and Other Indicators

Indicators are used for each NWT–wide measure in order to quantify progress towards Strategic Plan goals. These indicators improve accountability to the public by providing a basis for reporting what the government is attempting to accomplish. Primary indicators have been identified that will be reported on an annual basis. Other indicators are used to help further describe the measures for each goal. While indicators for most measures are well developed, there are some measures where data and indicators are still being developed. For some indicators, the data sources are relatively new and therefore historical trends are difficult to identify.

Highlights of Recent Trends

In the following sections, a broad overview of the measures along with highlights of significant statistics or trends is presented in the context of the five Strategic Plan goals. The companion report, *2005 Compendium of NWT-wide Measures,* provides detailed information on all measures and associated indicators.

Goal 1: A strong northern voice and identity.

Measures	
1.01	Negotiation & Implementation of Land Claim & Self-Government Agreements
1.02	Negotiation & Implementation of Devolution
1.03	Aboriginal Language Use
1.04	GNWT Financial Health for Operations
1.05	Long-Term GNWT Financial Health
1.06	Net Federal Investment in NWT

The measure on the negotiation and implementation of land claim and self-government agreements indicates that five of the thirteen negotiations have been completed and are in the implementation phase. It is clear from examining the start and effective dates, that these negotiations take place over a considerable period of time. A measure has not yet been developed for devolution negotiations.

The measure on Aboriginal languages reflects the trend of a lower percentage of Aboriginal persons that are able to speak an Aboriginal language. Overall, there has been a steady decline over the past 20 years in the percentage of Aboriginal persons 15 years of age and older in the NWT that speak an Aboriginal language (from 59.1% in 1984 to 44.0% in 2004).

Measures on the financial health of the GNWT indicate the government had a small operating deficit in 2004/05, but expects a small operating surplus for 2005/06. The GNWT expects to remain within the guidelines established in the *Fiscal Responsibility Policy*. The measure of long-term financial health reveals that debt servicing costs, as a percent of revenues, have been less than one percent since 1999/00. The *Fiscal Responsibility Policy* identifies a maximum threshold of 5 percent.

Examining federal investment levels in the NWT shows that, since division, federal revenues (e.g. personal and corporate income taxes, royalties and other investment income, other federal taxes) from the NWT have increased 36.1%. Federal expenditures in the NWT (e.g. transfers to NWT government, direct transfers to individuals and expenditures on goods and services) over the same period have not kept pace.

Goal 2: Healthy, educated people living in safe communities, who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities.

Measures

Note: These were developed to reflect the health, education and other social conditions for infants and children, youth, adults and seniors include:

2.01 Healthy Babies
2.02 Children's Health
2.03 Student Performance
2.04 Youth Crime
2.05 Physically Active Youth
2.06 Youth Health Behaviour
2.07 Education Levels
2.08 Crime Rates
2.09 Smoking Rates
2.10 Alcohol & Other Addictions
2.11 Healthy Lifestyles
2.12 Premature Death Rate
2.13 Family Income
2.14 Chronic Health Conditions
2.15 Senior's Health

Measures on infant and children's health have demonstrated mixed results. Overall in the NWT there has been a declining trend in the percentage of babies born at a healthy weight. The three-year average ending in 2002 indicated some 75.6% of NWT babies born at a healthy weight compared with 81.3% of Canadian babies. Youth health in the NWT has remained steady recently, although levels are slightly lower than the Canadian average. At the same time, there has been a decline in the rate of hospitalization for children due to injuries and rates of physical activity among territorial youth are higher than the Canadian average.

Results for education levels show improving trends, but territorial levels still lag behind national averages. Overall graduation rates in the NWT have been on the increase since the mid-1990s. In 2004/05, the territorial graduation rate was 51.1%, which marks the first time the rate has reached 50%, but the NWT graduation rate is still lower than the Canadian average of 75.9%. Longer-term trends in other indicators of overall education levels in the NWT also show improved conditions.

Recent trends in crime rates, particularly violent crime, reveal that there have been increases over the past few years. The gap between the Canadian and NWT violent crime rate has increased to the NWT rate being some seven times the national rate. Rates of youth charged in a criminal incident have also been increasing in recent years.

Recent trends in smoking rates in the NWT have been promising. Both the youth smoking rate and the overall rate have been declining since the mid-1990s, but smoking rates continue to be considerably higher in smaller NWT communities. In terms of alcohol use in the Northwest Territories, the percentage of drinkers that drink five or more per occasion more than once a month has been increasing in recent surveys: for 2004, 30.4% of drinkers reported this level of drinking in the NWT, which is approximately double the Canadian average for this indicator.

Indicators of cancer and diabetes rates among the population 20 years of age and over have both increased over time in the NWT. These changes may, in part, reflect behaviours such as smoking and the aging of the territorial population. The rate of chronic conditions in the territorial senior population is similar to that for all of Canada.

Goal 3: Well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential.

Measures	
3.01	Municipal Finance
3.02	Municipal Infrastructure
3.03	Local Government Employment
3.04	Local Government Training
3.05	Municipal Participation
3.06	Volunteerism

Examining measures around well-governed sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential show that municipal finances have been relatively stable since 2000, with only a few communities in a deficit position in each year. Training opportunities for local governments have been increasing through the programs offered by the School of Community Government.

Levels of participation in local elections for Mayor, Chief or Councilor, while quite volatile, were quite high for elections in 2003 and 2004. Similarly, the percentage of positions that were elected by acclamation is also highly variable, although it was at its lowest level in 2004.

Levels of volunteerism are relatively high in the NWT with 51% of persons 15 and over volunteering with a group or organization and 86% doing informal volunteering.

Goal 4: A diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices.

Measures

4.01	Overall Economic Performance
4.02	Employment Diversification
4.03	Overall Employment
4.04	Employment income
4.05	Non-Renewable Resource Production
4.06	Mineral Exploration
4.07	Forestry Production
4.08	Fish & Fur Production
4.09	Retail & Wholesale Trade Growth
4.10	Growth in the Tourism Sector
4.11	Transportation Sector Contribution to the Economy
4.12	Service Sector Growth
4.13	Territorial Trade

Between 1999 and 2004, the territorial economy has grown by 69%. This leads all provinces and territories, and compares with a Canadian total of 16%. Much of the growth in the territorial economy during this period can be attributed to diamond activity and exploration activity associated with natural gas. Specifically, production in the non-renewable resource sector has increased from $289 million in 1998 to more than $2.7 billion in 2004, with the development of the two operating diamond mines. Exploration activity for minerals and oil and gas has totaled more than $2.3 billion since 1999.

Overall employment levels for residents of the NWT increased by 9.0% between 2001 and 2004. The NWT employment rate of 71.6% ranked highest among all provinces and territories. Longer-term trends show improved employment rates in smaller NWT communities, although significant gaps exist in employment rates between larger and smaller NWT communities. Recent developments have contributed to increased levels of private sector employment, which represented 51.1% of all employment in the NWT in 2004, compared with 65.5% for Canada. Employment income has risen by 46% in the NWT since 1994, with much of the

increases noted since 1999. Selected communities impacted by resource development have seen employment income double since 1994.

Considering other sectors in the economy, overall the NWT ranked second to Alberta in growth in retail and wholesale trade between 1999 and 2004 with an overall increase of 38.5%. Total sales in the NWT for 2004 were approximately $705 million. The transportation industry in the NWT increased in value by 23.7% in constant dollars between 1999 and 2004. This increase ranked second in the country behind Saskatchewan.

In the tourism sector, a significant reduction in the number of visitors to the NWT occurred in 2001/02, which in large part was attributed to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, The number of visitors has grown significantly in subsequent years – overall, there has been an 18.4% increase in visitor levels between 2000/01 and 2004/05

Goal 5: Care and protection of the natural environment.

Measures	
5.01	Air Quality Measures
5.02	Biodiversity Levels
5.03	Sustainable Forestry Measure
5.04	Healthy Wildlife Populations
5.05	Environmental Clean-Up Measures
5.06	Energy Generation

Air quality information for the NWT has expanded with additional monitoring stations. Results from this monitoring show relatively stable patterns.

There are currently nine areas of the NWT that have started the process to be designated as protected areas under the protected areas strategy. The area of NWT forests covered by detailed inventory has increased substantially in recent years.

Overall, populations in bison herds are increasing slowly. Barrenland caribou populations are declining while boreal caribou populations are stable. The GNWT is working with co-management boards to ensure that the long-term outlook for these populations remains healthy.

While there has been an increase in the number of petroleum spills reported in recent years because of increased economic activity, the average volume of each spill has been reduced.

Appendix: Summary of Actions for Each Goal

Detailed activities of the GNWT are presented for each goal and activity identified in the Strategic Plan. While this is not a comprehensive description of all GNWT activities supporting the Strategic Plan, it does provide a snapshot of progress to date in advancing this plan.

Goal 1: A strong northern voice and identity

Expected Results

- ✓ *All NWT leaders working together with mutual trust and respect.*
- ✓ *NWT indigenous cultures and languages that are a source of strength for present and future generations.*
- ✓ *Successful negotiation and implementation of Aboriginal land, resource, and self-government agreements in all regions.*
- ✓ *The Northwest Territories being a full partner, and having a strong, unified voice in the Canadian federation.*
- ✓ *Adequate resources available to support operations of and investments by northern governments.*

Action #1: Implement school programs to support culture and language, in partnership with families and communities.

- A new *Aboriginal Language and Culture-Based Education Directive* has been adopted requiring reporting by schools and boards on programs and appropriate use of funds.
- The GNWT is continuing to work on the development of an Aboriginal second language curriculum template. Examples include:
  - The Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education has been working on drafting a prototype curriculum template for the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit languages, in consultation with Teaching and Learning Centres staff that include Elders.
  - The draft *Gwich'in/Inuvialuktun K-6 Language Curriculum* has been completed by the Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council.
  - Development continues on an Aboriginal second language curriculum template based on the Beaufort-Delta curriculum for Inuvialuktun and Gwich'in languages.
- New museum and virtual exhibits on Aboriginal cultures have been developed by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. These will include school-based activities linked with the NWT curriculum that will be developed and made available to all NWT schools.

- The Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program is currently being reviewed to update course materials and to ensure the program meets the needs of students.

Action #2: Promote the NWT as a prime location to live, raise a family, visit and do business and build on initiatives that promote and distinguish the NWT's unique northern identity.

- The GNWT participated in Expo 2005 in Japan, showcasing NWT tourism, products and business potential.
- A *Diamond Tourism Study* was released in cooperation with the City of Yellowknife.
- The GNWT has provided significant assistance to the aurora-viewing sector of the tourism industry. This sector has been improving and evolving well in the past three years.
- The government is also:
  - Participating in the *National Diamond Strategy* to promote unique NWT diamonds, their identity and their business potential;
  - Updating a diamond promotional CD;
  - Partnering with the NWT business community to develop or expand markets;
  - Undertaking a study to assess the opportunities for an NWT jewellery industry; and,
  - Participating in all aspects of the 2007 Canada Winter Games, including national marketing, which presents an opportunity to promote and emphasize the unique character and attributes of the NWT.
- A draft proposal, *Tourism 2010 — A Tourism Plan for the NWT,* has been completed, outlining a long-term commitment to developing tourism in the NWT and promoting the NWT as a unique place to visit.

Action #3: Actively promote the interests of the NWT through its intergovernmental relations.

- The GNWT has taken a very active role and advanced its interests in many intergovernmental meetings, including:
  - First Ministers Meetings;
  - Council of the Federation;
  - Western Premier's Conference;
  - Hosting the 2005 meeting of the Northern Premiers' Forum; and,
  - Sectoral Ministers' meetings.
- The NWT is one of the leads on several national high profile initiatives including the development of a *National Energy Strategy*, a *Pan-Canadian Transportation Strategy*, and a *Western Aboriginal Training Strategy*.
- The finalization of the *Northern Strategy* with our territorial government partners and the federal government is near. Once completed, it will serve to raise the North's profile, affirming our place in the federation.

Action #4: Work in partnership with Members of the Legislative Assembly to make consensus government strong and effective.

- In addition to the formalized processes already established, Ministers and regular Members of the Legislative Assembly have successfully worked together on a number of key initiatives, most notably the *Boards and Agencies Review* and pipeline planning.
- The Executive Council of the 15th Legislative Assembly identified the need to conduct a review of GNWT boards and agencies as a key theme. A Steering Committee was established to oversee the review and make recommendations. The Steering Committee consisted of the lead Minister, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. The review process produced a number of recommendations as well as a policy on boards and agencies.
- Another good example of productive collaboration is the joint Cabinet/Accountability and Oversight Committee (AOC) pipeline planning committee. The committee's mandate is to provide advice to Cabinet and AOC and to ensure coordinated, focused, government-wide planning and strategy formulation to maximize the benefits and mitigate the adverse impacts of the development of a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.
- The business plan review process has also been revised with a view to facilitate a more productive exchange between standing committees and Ministers at the time departmental business plans are reviewed.

Action #5: Work with Northern Leaders to design and establish a northern intergovernmental assembly and work jointly to develop a northern agenda.

- The Circle of Northern Leaders, which has met twice since its creation: once in Hay River in 2004 and the next in Inuvik in 2005. This forum has proven to be a very effective way for northern leaders to come together, exchange ideas, discuss common areas of interest, and agree on a plan of action. The *Northern Strategy* was the primary topic of the most recent Circle of Northern Leaders meeting and helped to advance the initiative a great deal.
- The Premier has also met with Aboriginal leaders periodically to discuss issues of common concern.

Action #6: Continue to work with all regions and communities towards settling outstanding Aboriginal land, resources and self-government agreements and implement those that have been finalized.

- The GNWT is currently involved in negotiating:
  - A regional self-government claim with the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in in the Beaufort-Delta area;
  - A regional land and self-government agreement with the Akaitcho Dene First Nations;
  - A regional land and self-government agreement with the Deh Cho First Nations; and,
  - A regional land and self-government agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.
- The Sahtu region has opted for community self-government:

- Deline and Tulita are currently negotiating self-government at the community level;
- Norman Wells will begin formal negotiations in 2005; and,
- Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope have also expressed interest in beginning negotiations.

- The GNWT brought the *Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency Act* into force on the effective date of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement (August 4th, 2005).
- The government continues to work closely with the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Tłı̨chǫ governments and Canada to ensure that all land claims and self-government obligations and activities are being implemented by the appropriate parties on a timely basis. The GNWT participates on tripartite implementation committees tasked with monitoring and overseeing all implementation obligations and activities.
- The GNWT is working with Aboriginal governments to develop broad core principles and objectives, which will ensure a degree of comparability for standards in the areas of child and family services, adoption, trusteeship, guardianship, social housing and early childhood development facilities.

Action #7: Work jointly with our northern partners, Aboriginal governments, and the federal government to build the capacity of northern governments, at all levels, to ensure the successful implementation of self-government.

- The GNWT continues to work with Aboriginal governments and Canada to ensure that adequate resources are negotiated for the ongoing implementation of self-government agreements.
- Training and development opportunities continue to be delivered to community and Aboriginal governments and their staff in partnership with the federal government. The curriculum is constantly being refined to reflect the needs of northern governments in an evolving political environment.
- The GNWT's *New Deal for NWT Community Governments* includes significant work on building capacity at the community government level so that these governments can assume additional responsibilities.

Action #8: Work in partnership with Northern Leaders to negotiate a fair deal on devolution and resource revenue sharing and continue to develop positions jointly to project a strong and unified northern voice.

- The GNWT, the Aboriginal Summit and Canada are negotiating the devolution of the management of resources to the NWT and a fair deal on a net fiscal benefit from resource revenue sharing.
- Negotiations have experienced a delay because the federal government has requested a postponement until a federal Expert Panel can report on equalization and other intergovernmental fiscal arrangements. There are six outstanding issues and negotiations will resume late in 2005.

Action #9: Ensure that the general public is informed throughout the process of devolution, resource revenue sharing and self-government negotiations.

- The GNWT will continue to provide information sessions/presentations upon request. Those briefed to date include MLAs, most GNWT departments, regional management committees, Aurora College, several municipalities, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, and the Assembly of First Nations.
- The GNWT will develop a number of communication products to inform and educate the public about progress being made in lands, resources and self-government negotiations. Feedback will be monitored, and trend analysis and focus groups will be utilized to gauge public understanding of the information conveyed.

Action #10: Implement communications strategies to inform the public of the territorial government's plans and to support our commitment to transparent and accountable government.

- Communications strategies and plans have been developed to inform and engage stakeholders and the public on government activities and initiatives. For example, the development of the *Northern Strategy* included broad consultations involving stakeholder meetings across the territory, a public town hall, a dedicated web site, and an information booklet with a questionnaire.
- The GNWT has improved access to NWT legislation by compiling legislation on its website in a searchable format.

Action #11: Expand partnerships and optimize federal contributions to economic and social development.

- GNWT departments have been working to maximize the effectiveness of their programs by partnering with the federal government in such areas as education and training, culture and heritage, economic development, policing, and justice. Specific examples include:
  - Contribution agreements have been secured for the mining society and an oil and gas society under the *Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program* to provide training for northern industrial projects;
  - The successful implementation of the *National Historic Places Initiative*, which includes a strong community component;
  - The GNWT continues to work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada respecting the types of initiatives that could be funded under the $90 million *Strategic Investment in Northern Economic Development Fund*; and,
  - Ongoing negotiations with the federal government on new Legal Aid agreements, funding for youth justice; and, access to funding through the *First Nations Policing Policy*.

Action #12: Make it a top priority to negotiate a more adequate formula financing agreement with the federal government.

- The federal government has decided to review the equalization program as well as territorial formula financing arrangements. Details on the review and

impact on current arrangements have not been worked out but they are likely to be significantly different from existing arrangements.

- A federal expert panel has been appointed to provide recommendations on new arrangements for the post 2005/06 period. The GNWT, along with Nunavut and Yukon, has made a submission to the panel outlining the territories' concerns with the new federal funding framework and providing proposals for new arrangements.
- In the short term, the new arrangements will provide an additional $113 million to the GNWT over the 2004-05 and 2005-06 fiscal years.

Action #13: Improve the GNWT's fiscal position and performance and avoid incurring levels of debt that we cannot afford.

- Additional funding from Canada, along with restraint measures adopted by the GNWT, have substantially improved the GNWT's fiscal position over that forecast in the 2004 Budget.
- The GNWT has implemented a *Fiscal Responsibility Policy* that:
  - Requires the government to generate the necessary operating surpluses, on an on-going basis, to finance 50% of our capital investment;
  - Ensures the government borrows within affordable limits; and,
  - Defines performance measurement criteria for government borrowing.
- The performance measurement criteria will be reported annually when the *Public Accounts* are presented to the Legislative Assembly.
- The GNWT has obtained a favourable debt credit rating and is working on a proposal to Canada to have the current $300 million borrowing limit amended to one that better reflects its ability to finance debt.

Goal 2: Healthy, educated people living in safe communities, who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities

Expected Results

- ✓ *Babies who are born healthy and become healthy adults.*
- ✓ *Children getting the care and nurturing they need.*
- ✓ *Youth, parents and adults who see wellness as the preferred alternative, and who make healthy and productive lifestyle choices for themselves and their families.*
- ✓ *Elders and persons with disabilities who are well, supported by their families and community and able to live with dignity.*
- ✓ *Housing that is adequate, affordable and accessible.*

Action #1: Continue to provide programs to support healthy prenatal lifestyles, positive parenting skills, childcare and child development supports.

- In 2005/06 the GNWT is administering:
  - Over $2.8M for the *Brighter Futures* program;
  - Almost $700,000 for the *Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program*; and,
  - Over $460,000 for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) related initiatives.
- The GNWT, together with stakeholder groups, has developed *An Integrated Approach for FASD in the NWT* as part of a formal strategy to address FASD.
- Breastfeeding is a key area of emphasis in the *Healthy Eating Strategy*.
- The GNWT is an active participant in the national school health consortium.
- With the *Healthy Children Initiative*, the GNWT provides grants that are accessible to organizations upon application.
- The GNWT is continuing to support child and family literacy projects and language nests that enhance early language development and prepare children for educational opportunities. Eighteen language nests are funded in 2005/06.
- Details regarding additional funding for the early learning and childcare agreement are in the process of being worked through by federal, provincial and territorial officials, including the GNWT. Negotiations continue and an agreement has not yet been signed.

Action #2: Support initiatives that encourage individuals, especially youths, to make positive lifestyle choices that improve health status and help avoid lifestyle related diseases.

- The NWT's Health Promotion Strategy is being updated and expanded. Four major areas of emphasis are:
  - Healthy pregnancies;
  - Tobacco harm reduction and cessation;
  - Active living/healthy eating; and,
  - Injury prevention.
- The *Don't Be a Butthead – Be Smoke Free* Phase I campaign ran from May 2004 – June 2005. The campaign focused on keeping youth 8-14 yrs of age

from starting to smoke, and provided curriculum materials to NWT schools. A results report on this campaign will be released in fall of 2005.

- Phase II of the *Don't Be a Butthead* campaign has been approved. The next phase will build on the progress made to date.
- In December 2004, the GNWT released the report *Injury in the NWT*.
- Approximately 15% of all NWT residents participated in the *Get Active NWT* challenge.
- The framework *Honouring the Spirit of our Children: A Framework for School Counselling Programs in the Northwest Territories* was released in January 2004.
- GNWT is implementing the recently launched *School Counselling Framework and Handbook* that were developed to address the needs of students as identified in the *Student Needs Assessment 2000*. The Framework is built upon the values of respect and integrity that are central to the cultural curricula *Dene Kede* and *Innuqatigiit*.
- The government also continues to offer training in Effective Behaviour Support to school staff across the NWT to ensure that school-wide planning processes in this area are in place.
- The *Skills for Healthy Relationships* component of the health curriculum in grades 7-9 is also being actively promoted.
- The GNWT is developing a *Northern Youth Strategy* that will ensure greater coordination of youth programming and more effective supports for youth.
- GNWT funded the inaugural NWT Games in Fort Smith in March 2005 and Inuvik in July 2005, resulting in over 400 youth ages 10-14 taking part in sporting and cultural events and learning positive lifestyle choices.

Action #3: Support recreation and sport initiatives that provide opportunities for physical activity and personal development.

- The *Get Active NWT* program ran from April to July 2005. Winning communities each received a banner and a $5000 grant to be spent on physical activity equipment for use by the community.

Action #4: Implement a disabilities strategy.

- The *NWT Disability Framework and Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities* was officially released in December 2004. The Action Plan identifies priority areas for the development of programs and services for persons with disabilities.
- The GNWT has dedicated $100,000 to address items within the Action Plan for 2005/06, and is intending to invest a further $100,000 for disability programs in 2006-2007. The NWT Disability Steering Committee Partnership will determine how best to allocate the funding.
- The GNWT is continuing its work with the federal/provincial/territorial Social Services Committee on the development of more disability benefits.

Action #5: Implement the use of nurse practitioners and midwives to complement the work of traditional health providers such as doctors, nurses and traditional healers.

- The *Midwifery Profession Act* came into force in January 2005. Regulations tied to three NWT Acts were prepared to allow for the smooth implementation of the Midwifery Profession Act.
- Recruitment efforts are underway to fill midwife and nurse practitioner positions. Midwifery service is presently available in Fort Smith. Nurse practitioners provide services in Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife.

Action #6: Continue with the Seniors Action Plan, and other programs such as home care, to support elders living within their homes and communities wherever possible.

- The GNWT currently provides three benefits for seniors: the *Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit*, the *Senior Home Heating Subsidy*, and for those receiving Income Assistance, the *Aged Allowance*.
- A new *Seniors Information Handbook* was released in February 2005.
- $100,000 has been identified for the next fiscal year to enhance options for senior-specific community outreach programs.
- The Committee of Officials for Seniors Programs and Services has drafted a terms of reference for ongoing work addressed in the *Seniors Action Plan*.

Action #7: Implement student success initiatives to promote literacy and numeracy.

- Student Success Centres have been established using GNWT contribution dollars at the three campuses of Aurora College.
- The GNWT continues to fund a range of projects in NWT school jurisdictions under the *Student Success Initiative*.
- Evaluation and renewal of the *NWT Literacy Strategy* is planned for 2006/07.

Action #8: Increase educational choices at the high school level to improve links with vocational and work opportunities.

- Several programs such as the *Schools North Apprenticeship Program*, *Skills Canada-NWT*, and *Ready to Work North*, all aim to provide students with exposure to different occupations and to prepare them for the workforce.
- Work continues on development of additional pathways through senior secondary school. An additional pathway in mathematics has been developed and implemented in senior secondary school.
- Curriculum development is under way in science and English language arts.

Action #9: Focus adult training institutions to respond to labour market conditions and to support the use of career action plans.

- Aurora College adjusts course offerings annually in response to changing labour market conditions and labour market initiatives.

- Through the federal *Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership* funding, continual effort is made to provide training programs that meet the requirements of industry.

Action #10: Strengthen support for families in conflict by implementing the Protection Against Family Violence Act; developing a mediation program, making maintenance enforcement more effective, and working with the Legal Services Board to improve access to Legal Aid.

- The *Protection Against Family Violence Act* came into force on April 1, 2005. Implementation work included a public awareness/education campaign, training of designates, and development of regulations. The GNWT also met with stakeholder groups to provide information on the Act and consult on the application process for Emergency Protection Orders.
- After six months of being in force, the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* has had the highest per capita use of the legislation of any jurisdiction in Canada. The GNWT is conducting a six-month review of the legislation to examine its use and to improve its implementation.
- The Legal Services Board opened a new Legal Aid Clinic focusing on family law. Two additional staff lawyers will be employed at the clinic to improve access to legal aid for families in conflict.
- In September 2005 the GNWT sponsored a *Kids in the Middle* training for Aboriginal community service workers. Forty Four community workers from 14 different communities were trained to provide one-on-one support for parents considering separation (or who are already separated) and to assist community members to play a supportive role both before and after a couple separates.
- The Department of Justice contracted with a lawyer to provide family law mediation services in Yellowknife and Hay River as a pilot project from October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.
- In order to assist individuals with family law matters, the GNWT will be launching a family justice website with a *Guide to Family Law in the Northwest Territories*, a series of public legal information brochures on family law and two self-help kits for *Changing Child Support Orders* and *Doing Your Own Divorce*.

Action #11: Improve outcomes for offenders by providing effective, culturally appropriate programs in facilities and communities.

- The GNWT offers a wide range of culturally appropriate programs to support the rehabilitation of inmates. These include programs that incorporate traditional social, cultural and spiritual beliefs and values.
- The GNWT provides funding and support to Community Justice Committees currently active in 30 NWT communities.
- In response to an external review of human resource management practices in Corrections Service, the GNWT released *An Action Plan for Human Resources in the Corrections Service* in December 2004. The plan includes 35 recommendations, proposed actions and timelines for completion. Implementation of the actions is ongoing. Enhancements to training and staffing levels in the Corrections Service have been made, so that the Service can meet its goals. A number of measures have been undertaken to stabilize programming and the workforce in NWT Correctional facilities, including:

  - Training provided to correctional officers that will meet Canadian standards;
  - Program positions that will be made permanent; and,
  - Permanent relief staff that will replace casual staff.
- The GNWT will invest in programs shown to reduce criminal behaviour. Elders and community members will provide support to offenders during and after these programs. This will help offenders with the transition back to their communities. The GNWT will also investigate enhancements to pre-release planning to help ensure easier integration into the community.

Action #12: Restructure the social safety network so that it more directly focuses on promoting self-reliance and supporting those most in need.

and

Action #13: Introduce standard program principles, policies and criteria for income security programs to improve consistency and transparency and to simplify access for NWT residents.

- On April 1, 2005, the *Public Housing Subsidy Program* was transferred from the NWT Housing Corporation to the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment. In 2005/06, this subsidy is being distributed to Local Housing Organizations by the NWT Housing Corporation on behalf of Education, Culture and Employment. This change in administrative process will allow the NWT Housing Corporation to focus on its mandate of providing affordable housing, and the Department to focus on the provision of income tested subsidies. Developmental work continues with stakeholders and local housing organizations to ensure continuity and excellence in service.
- The GNWT will embark on a consultation process regarding income security programs across government in the fall of 2005.

Action #14: Maintain continued commitment to the Social Agenda and implement "Doing our Part" – the GNWT's response to the Social Agenda recommendations.

- The GNWT is committed to working with communities to develop and implement the 3-year *Social Agenda Community Demonstration Project Initiative*. The final year of the initiative is 2005/2006. Eight projects have been funded in the following communities: Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Norman Wells, Fort Providence, Wha Ti, Łutselk'e and Yellowknife/Dettah/N'dilo. Depending on community priorities, projects ranged in focus from parenting to community capacity building. A project performance measurement report has been submitted for each project. An overall *Annual Performance Measurement Report* is expected in Fall 2005. An evaluation of the *Social Agenda Community Demonstration Project Initiative* will begin in January 2006.
- The *Volunteer Support Initiative and Declaration on Volunteering* were approved and announced in April 2005.

Action #15: Review the mandate of the Northwest Territories' Housing Corporation with a view to better positioning it to provide and manage suitable, adequate and affordable housing in NWT communities.

- The GNWT developed a new mandate and organizational model for the NWT Housing Corporation that focuses on increasing the quantum of suitable and affordable housing stock.
- During the period 2004-2007, the GNWT has plans to complete 3,100 housing projects, including the construction and/or acquisition of 107 new public housing units for seniors, singles and disabled families, 44 market housing units, 400 homeownership units and 2,500 renovation projects.

Action #16: Promote partnerships where possible to make available vacant land to build affordable housing and infrastructure.

- The GNWT continues to work with community governments to identify vacant lands within community boundaries that are suitable for residential, commercial and industrial development, using its Land Development Needs Assessment as a guide.
- The government is working to transfer Commissioner's Land to community governments when they are willing and able to accept responsibility for this activity. Community capacity needs to be enhanced to prepare communities for when they take over responsibility for this activity.
- The GNWT is proposing improvements to land ownership practices in communities in settled land claim areas by changing from a leasehold approach to complete land ownership (fee simple title). Fee simple title provides developers with certainty of land tenure. It increases flexibility for bank and alternative source financing for developers and improves land management practices for community and public governments. By creating these circumstances, support is given to efforts to develop independent and self-reliant communities.

Action #17: Encourage private sector development of housing and infrastructure in NWT communities through partnerships.

- In revising the mandate of the NWT Housing Corporation, the GNWT is actively exploring what further market supports can be provided by partnering/joint venturing with private interests, aboriginal organizations and other government agencies at the federal, territorial and community level.
- The *Mackenzie Gas Project* provides a one-time exclusive opportunity that can provide long-term housing benefits to the residents of the NWT. The GNWT is exploring an innovative concept that transforms temporary workforce housing from the construction phase to affordable, quality, permanent residential homes. This project proposes a unique four-party partnership comprised of the GNWT, Government of Canada, industry, and communities.

Action #18: Remove barriers to competition in the transportation industry to help reduce the cost of living.

- A draft air travel cost study has been completed. Conclusions include that there are many variables/factors such as fuel and labour that determine the cost for air travel. Many of these factors are experiencing rapid price fluctuations that make systematic cost analyses difficult. Many of these factors also cannot be managed or mitigated by Government.
- The GNWT is working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other partners to expand the winter road season to Wekweti. A longer winter road season will increase resupply and employment opportunities for residents.

Goal 3: Well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential

Expected Results

- ✓ Community and regional goals are achieved by cooperation and shared responsibility among all NWT governments.
- ✓ All governments have clear, accountable and efficient governance structures.
- ✓ Communities and regions having the capacity they need to achieve their goals.

Action #1: Support all regions and communities to implement mutually agreed upon aspects of their agendas (e.g. the Beaufort/Delta agenda).

- The GNWT has worked with the Beaufort Delta Regional Council on the development of a Joint Work Plan in support of the *Beaufort-Delta Agenda – Focus on Family*.
- Resources have been provided to the Beaufort Delta regional office of the Department of Executive to facilitate the implementation of the joint workplan.
- The Beaufort Delta Regional Executive office continues to work with its partners to advance initiatives described in the *Joint Work Plan*, particularly in the areas of early childhood learning, in-school initiatives, community capacity building and community wellness.
- Regional managers and key staff members have participated in a 3-day workshop, designed to enhance the capacity (knowledge, skills, and abilities) of individuals to design, lead and participate in collaborative processes. Planning to implement initiatives outlined in the *Beaufort Delta Agenda and Joint Work Plan* were part of this workshop.

Action #2: Work with Aboriginal governments towards implementing their regional transition plans and their land claim and self-government agreements.

- The GNWT has been working with community governments to prepare for the implementation of self-government. Specifically, the GNWT is working closely with Treaty 11 and the Tłı̨chǫ community governments to implement the *Tłı̨chǫ Community Government Act*.

Action #3: Reform territorial boards and agencies to focus on accountability and on efficient and effective service.

- A comprehensive *Boards and Agencies Review* has been conducted and recommendations include, amongst other things, the adoption of a governance framework and a boards and agencies policy. Implementation of the governance framework will require resources.
- A *Third Party Accountability Framework* has also been adopted. The framework sets out the reporting and other accountability requirements of third party agencies providing programs or services on behalf of the GNWT.

- A *Financial Administration Manual Directive* and an implementation plan have been drafted. An information package has been distributed to all government staff. Information sessions have been held with a number of departments and Regional Management Committees. Further information sessions are planned.
- An assessment of the evaluation and accountability function in the GNWT is also being undertaken. Existing accountability structures including budget plan submissions and annual reporting requirements for education councils and Aurora College are being maintained. In the area of education boards, standardized student testing has been implemented at the grade 3, 6, and 9 levels in language arts and math, through the writing of Alberta Achievement Tests. Functional grade level of students in language arts and math is reported for all students in grades 1-3. Functional grade level reporting in language arts and math will extend to grades 1-6 in 2005-06 and grades 1-9 in 2006-07.
- The *Business Development and Investment Corporation Act* was officially established on April 1, 2005 amalgamating the business services of the NWT Development Corporation, Community Futures, the Business Credit Corporation, various ITI business programs and the services of the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre for a one-stop business shop.

Action #4: Promote and sustain a professional public service at all levels.

- The GNWT continues to train Northerners through its college programs such as teacher training and nursing degree program. It is also working in partnership with community governments and other stakeholders, including the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT, to develop local operations by providing an integrated system of training.
- The GNWT continues its efforts to recruit and retain Northerners. The *Northern Student and Graduate Programs* continue to demonstrate success in providing relevant work experience for northern post-secondary students, both during their studies and after graduation.
- The *Management Assignment Program* currently has participants from all regions of the NWT who are developing and refining their management skills for future GNWT management opportunities.
- Employees who have made an outstanding contribution to the public service receive recognition through the *Premier's Award for Excellence*.
- The *Code of Conduct* has been reviewed and revised to promote continued high standards of professionalism in the public service and ensure that employees understand their obligations as public service employees. This fall, a printed *Code of Conduct* will be forwarded to each employee with an accompanying letter highlighting the revisions. As well, sessions will be scheduled to provide an update and refresher on the standards of conduct expected of public servants.
- A strategic approach to human resource management, *Future Direction of the Public Service*, has been developed and approved. It contains strategies to improve competency and capacity, provide tools to be effective, and to motivate and stabilize the public service. A full-scale action plan is being developed to implement these strategies. Examples of a few of the initiatives being undertaken in the short term are:
  - Government-wide competencies research;
  - Determining specific and focused staff development initiatives;

- Review of the *Workplace Conflict Resolution Policy*; and,
- Review of the *Employee Family Assistance Program*.

Action #5: Implement legislative and policy changes to provide expanded authority and accountability to community governments.

- The *Tłı̨chǫ Community Government Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in June 2004 and came into effect prior to the effective date of the *Tłı̨chǫ Final Agreement*. Regulations have been developed to provide guidance on expanded borrowing and investment powers.
- The *New Deal for NWT Community Governments* will include a full review of all policy and legislative instruments that provide the framework for community governments to ensure maximum support and local autonomy.

Action #6: Implement legislative and policy changes to provide community governments with access to increased revenues and with greater authority over infrastructure development.

- New municipal legislation, implemented in 2004, expands borrowing powers for community governments.
- The *New Deal for NWT Community Governments* will build on work already in progress to provide communities with expanded authority. Communities will be given more control over capital planning for community infrastructure. When taken together with proposals by the Government of Canada to provide additional funding for community governments, these new sources of revenue and their predictability will enable community governments to leverage additional funding to meet their infrastructure needs.
- The *Property Tax Revenue Grant Program* was established as an interim step in providing community governments with property tax revenues prior to becoming taxation authorities as of January 2008, pursuant to the *New Deal for NWT Community Governments*.
- Work is underway on formula funding for community public infrastructure, to be provided to community governments, effective April 1, 2007, so that they can plan, design, control and implement local infrastructure. Formula funding will encourage leveraging of other sources of revenue to support these priorities.

Action #7: Work with regions and communities to improve capacity to analyze and have access to information needed to monitor socio-economic conditions in their respective areas.

- The GNWT has established three term positions in the regions to provide support and assistance to community governments to prepare for the impacts of resource development, including preparations for discussions with industry involved in the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline around socio-economic impacts.
- The GNWT has also provided $1.2 million in direct funding to community governments to identify and prepare to address socio-economic issues related to resource development.
- The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office was officially established on April 1, 2005. Its coordinates GNWT planning, actions and communication with communities regarding the *Mackenzie Gas Project*.

Action #8: Continue to work with Aboriginal and community governments in building capacity at all levels.

- The *New Deal for NWT Community Governments* focuses on building capacity at the local level, for both leaders and staff.
- The GNWT actively supports pre-implementation and implementation activities in order to assist with capacity development related to Aboriginal rights agreements, such as Tłı̨chǫ, Deline, and the Beaufort Delta.
- Funding for capacity building has been provided to implement the *Beaufort-Delta Political Accord*, and also for the Aboriginal Summit.
- The School of Community Government provides a wide variety of training available to community and Aboriginal governments.
- The GNWT continues to work on commitments related to the *Gwich'in Memorandum of Understanding* dealing with government contracting.

Action #9: Use partnerships in federal initiatives to enhance the development of data communications infrastructure within the GNWT. Where feasible, the benefits of these developments will be extended to the public benefit

- The GNWT participates on a federal-provincial-territorial panel on broadband.
- The GNWT has received approximately $3 million in public-benefit satellite capacity under the federal *National Satellite Initiative*. The GNWT is currently working with the federal government and other stakeholders on a national program to deploy $50 million in additional satellite capacity to northern Canada.
- The GNWT provided $750,000 to support local training and business development in the information and communications technology sector.
- In May 2005, the GNWT applied for an additional 5 MHz of C-Band satellite capacity under the *National Satellite Initiative*. If successful, the capacity will be shared among the 10 satellite-served communities, resulting in improved performance to users on the GNWT network in those communities.

Action #10: Improve key transportation infrastructure to support economic growth, investment, tourism and reduced cost of living.

- In 2005/06 progress continued on several highway projects. Highlights included:
  - Work on Highway 3 Behchoko to Yellowknife is nearly complete;
  - Further work on Mackenzie Valley Winter Road bridges and grade improvements continue, including design of the Bear River bridge;
  - Additional progress on Highway 1,4, 7 and 8 projects; and,
  - To date over half of the $130 million joint GNWT-Canada project funding for these improvements has been expended.
- The GNWT has worked with local contractors/industry to develop a new contracting and funding approach to operating the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road for the 2005/06 season. This approach should improve the safety and standard of the winter road.
- The GNWT was successful in securing $6.9 million in funding under Transport Canada's *Airport Capital Assistance Program* to re-surface the runway, taxiways and apron at the Norman Wells Airport. This project, when complete

in 2006, will ensure this airport can handle the increase in air travel expected from the *Mackenzie Gas Project*.

- Construction of the Yellowknife Airport Passenger Terminal Building expansion is on schedule with completion now anticipated for March 2006. The enhanced security measures mandated by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority that dictated this expansion will be operational as of January 2006. Expanding this facility will ensure air travel associated with business, tourism and personal travel is accommodated in a comfortable and secure facility.

Action #11: Continue to support initiatives to build safer communities (e.g. community justice activities; community policing; crime prevention; support to victims of crime; and working with RCMP to improve policing services).

- In December, 2004 the *Sex Offender Information Registration Act* came into force. In cooperation with the RCMP and the Crown's office in Yellowknife, the GNWT implemented the legislation and is working with the RCMP to complete service of all retrospective orders and to monitor the operation of the registry in the NWT.
- The GNWT is working with communities and the RCMP to enhance support for local justice activities through funding, education and collaboration. Plans are underway to:
  - Improve policing in smaller communities without an RCMP detachment,
  - Develop a multi-year plan for policing;
  - Focus and improve local crime prevention initiatives in cooperation with, communities and the RCMP;
  - Develop a community-based RCMP orientation program in cooperation with justice committees;
  - Assist communities to prepare for future challenges by giving them information on illegal drug activity (particularly hard drugs such as crack cocaine and crystal meth), and illegal Internet activity (child pornography, fraud);
  - Expand direct victim services to more communities by meeting with people who have expressed an interest in providing these services, by using statistics to determine which communities have the most need for and might best support victim services, and by encouraging existing service providers to respond to out-of-town issues by phone or in person; and,
  - Develop and implement a *Territorial Victim Notification Program* – this program will allow victims to access certain information about offenders.

Action #12: Continue to support court services that are impartial, efficient, and timely.

- The GNWT allocated enhanced funding to augment the level of staffing in the Court Registry, with the result that the time from charge to trial is now one of the shortest in the country.
- The Judicial Remuneration Commission has determined the appropriate salaries and benefits for territorial court judges, and the GNWT implemented all recommendations in a timely and effective manner. The GNWT is also proceeding with amendments to the *Territorial Court Act* to implement the recommendations of the Commission, to modernize the Act and to respond to changes requested by the judiciary. The GNWT is working on legislation for a

Court Security Act that will better protect the security of the judiciary, those participating in the court process, and the court staff.

Action #13: Continue to support efforts by the RCMP and communities to address crime and, more specifically, Internet and organized crime.

- The GNWT has recently increased funding to support the RCMP in their efforts to address crime, including both Internet and organized crime.
- The GNWT will provide new RCMP positions to communities as part of the final year of a three-year plan to increase police resources in the NWT.
- The GNWT participates in pan-territorial initiatives to strengthen the North's position on national issues such as the application of the *First Nations Policing Policy* and other policing issues, combating organized crime, and counter-terrorism.

Action #14: Continue to work with communities to provide safe drinking water to residents.

- The GNWT monitors the safety of drinking water through the *Public Health Act*, *Public Water Supply Regulations*, and *General Sanitation Regulations*
- Implementation of the *Water Quality Framework and Action Plan* continues.
- The government has supported community government training and certification (water treatment plant operators, circuit rider training, etc).
- The GNWT is currently undertaking an operational and management review of water system infrastructure in non-tax based communities.

Goal 4: A diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices

Expected Results

- ✓ A traditional economy capable of creating and maintaining a good living and healthy lifestyle for those northerners who choose to participate in it.
- ✓ Renewable resource, small business and tourism ventures that are viable and sustainable in every community.
- ✓ A balanced approach to the economic development of all sectors that is sustainable over the long term.
- ✓ Northerners being the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

Action #1: Implement sector specific economic diversification strategies (e.g. the NWT Fur Strategy and the NWT Tourism Strategy) to benefit regions and communities.

and

Action #3: Work with partners to market the NWT as a location for tourism and ensure that NWT interests are reflected in a national tourism strategy.

- Implementation of the *NWT Fur Strategy*, through the *Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program*, has produced a substantial increase in benefits to trappers across the NWT. Many of these benefits are being re-invested into other traditional economy activities.
- The GNWT released the NWT Arts Strategy, *A Holistic Approach to a Vibrant Arts Sector,* in November 2004. The strategy addresses the effectiveness of current programs supporting the arts, and identifies an action plan to provide for emerging needs.
- *Equitable Access – Economic Diversification,* a comprehensive economic review and action plan addressing all major sectors of the NWT economy was completed and launched.
- The *NWT Agriculture Policy Framework Agreement* fosters development in food safety and quality, advances in science and technology, and increases in diversification and investment.
- The GNWT is participating in the *National Diamond Strategy* discussions to protect and enhance the interests of NWT residents in the diamond industry.
- A NWT tourism plan, *Tourism 2010*, has been completed in draft. It identifies five key areas in which the GNWT proposes to invest a total of five million over five years. This tourism funding is intended to leverage additional investment from the private sector and public partners, and is expected to result in increased total spending in the tourism sector to $145 million annually by the year 2010.
- The GNWT is supporting diamond tourism product development based on Aurora College's diamond cutting and polishing program.
- The GNWT has also been an active participant with other provinces and territories and the federal government on a new *National Tourism Strategy* to highlight and promote NWT interests.

Action #2: Review the design and delivery of programs in support of harvesters.

- Following a second round of consultations with community and regional leadership late in 2004, the GNWT is following up on specific recommendations from the *Proposed Support to the Traditional Economy Policy*. Recommendations include the following:
  - Support and maintain the subsistence economy;
  - Develop partnerships between the GNWT and Aboriginal governments and the federal government; and,
  - Improve measurement of total economic values attributed to traditional economy pursuits.
- The GNWT is continuing consultations, which are proposed to result in a new policy by spring 2006.

Action #4: Develop, in partnership with governments and stakeholders, a national diamond strategy that will nurture value-added industries.

- The GNWT participates in the *National Diamond Strategy* discussions to protect and enhance the interests of NWT residents in the diamond industry.
- Provincial and territorial Ministers Responsible for Mines have instructed the strategy steering committee to give priority to the creation of a multi-stakeholder coordinating body in its work over the coming year. This body could then be mandated to develop terms and conditions for implementation of the strategy, coordinate its implementation and propose further steps.

Action #5: Continue to explore, private/public partnerships to build needed infrastructure.

- The GNWT established a policy on private/public partnerships (P3) in early 1999. At that time, a number of pilot projects were proposed as potential P3 projects. Only one project, student housing for Aurora College in Fort Smith, was undertaken and completed as a P3 project.
- GNWT Deputy Ministers' Capital Planning Review Committee has established a working group on infrastructure policy and practices. Their mandate includes:
  - Collecting and examining relevant demographic information related to future infrastructure needs;
  - Researching approaches used in other jurisdictions related to infrastructure acquisition, maintenance and management;
  - Making recommendations on the GNWT's policy framework for funding infrastructure, focusing on addressing changing needs;
  - Identifying and describing key mechanisms for potential use by the GNWT and community governments for financing infrastructure; and,
  - Developing recommendations related to:
    - GNWT infrastructure planning and development; and,
    - The community consultation process (an integral part of the capital planning process).
- The *New Deal for NWT Community Governments* encourages community governments to consider innovative approaches to infrastructure needs in communities. Once formula funding for community public infrastructure is

provided to community governments, they will be in a position to consider using these approaches. The GNWT responds to community requests for technical support on specific infrastructure projects.

- The GNWT is pursuing plans to provide access for NWT community governments to low-cost borrowing through a financing authority.
- The GNWT continues to work with the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation in a public-private partnership towards the construction of the first highway bridge over the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The final Concession Agreement has been agreed to and release of construction tenders is expected in fall 2005. Final signing of all agreements is expected in late fall. The Deh Cho Bridge Corporation has secured the required regulatory approvals from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. The current construction schedule anticipates the opening of the Deh Cho Bridge to traffic in late 2008.
- The GNWT is exploring what partnerships can be established to provide water and sewer services to the Yellowknife Airport.

Action #6: Support post-secondary institutions to respond to the needs of regional economies.

- The Department of Education, Culture, and Employment collaborates with Aurora College to adjust labour market initiatives programming in response to regional labour market demand.
- Aurora College is also working with industry to access *Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership* funding for training programs related to current and emerging industrial jobs.

Action #7: Strengthen the focus on critical functions related to employment and labour to support employment development and mutually beneficial relationships between employees and employers.

- A legislative proposal for amendments to the *Labour Standards Act* is being developed. As well, an options paper for enhanced labour functions across the GNWT is being prepared.

Action #8: Create partnerships with Aboriginal business leaders, business associations and the federal government to encourage investment to meet the needs of NWT business sectors.

and

Action #9: Work with the federal government to secure strategic federal investments in the NWT economy.

- The GNWT is providing financial assistance to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, which owns one-third of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline.
- The GNWT continues to work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada respecting the types of initiatives that could be funded under the $90 million *Strategic Investment in Northern Economic Development Fund*.

- The GNWT has also developed strategic partnership arrangements in the areas of research, funding, and innovation with Agriculture and Agrifoods Canada, Aboriginal Business Canada, and Natural Resources Canada.

Action #10: Negotiate socio-economic agreements in cooperation with communities and industry; to help ensure NWT residents derive maximum benefits from development (e.g. training, employment, building community capacity, infrastructure development, etc.).

- The GNWT continues to participate in and monitor the ongoing implementation of the BHP, Diavik and De Beers socio-economic agreements.
- Negotiations are proceeding between the GNWT and the Producers Group regarding a *Mackenzie Gas Project* Socio-economic Agreement.

Action #11: Establish a new Business Development and Investment Corporation to meet business' financing needs.

- The *Business Development and Investment Corporation Act* came into force on April 1, 2005, amalgamating the business services of the NWT Development Corporation, Community Futures, the Business Credit Corporation, various GNWT business programs and the services of the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre for a 'one-stop business shop'. The Business Development Investment Corporation is conducting a review of all businesses programs.

Action #12: Promote and encourage sustainable development of the NWT's natural resources.

- The GNWT promotes the concept of sustainable responsible development of the NWT's non-renewable resources.
- The GNWT established the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office to coordinate GNWT activities with respect to the *Mackenzie Gas Project* to promote, facilitate and enable investment in the NWT by mining and oil and gas companies.
- New standard operating procedures for commercial timber have been developed.
- An inventory and supply analysis has been completed for the Slave River Lowlands.
- The GNWT established 42 new permanent forest monitoring plots in 2005.
- The GNWT is currently working with wildlife co-management boards to develop caribou management plan options.
- During the fall of 2005, up to the minute air quality monitoring information will be available on-line.
- Work is underway to develop a Wildlife Management Information System and a Forest Management Information System.

Action #13: Provide Funding Dollars for Tourism Training in the Northwest Territories.

- The GNWT has contributed $1.8 million per year to the NWT Tourism Association to market the territory.

- The GNWT is working with the tourism industry to help implement the recommendations of the *Tourism Programs and Services Review* that supports the GNWT's involvement in tourism training and education.

Goal 5: Care and protection of the natural environment

Expected Results

- ✓ Respect for the land, water and traditional knowledge guiding decisions of governments, industry and individuals.
- ✓ Responsible, coordinated management of the environment to protect the land, water and wildlife.
- ✓ Resource development that balances economic benefits, social impacts and environmental preservation and protection.
- ✓ Governments acting on their responsibilities to clean up contaminated environmental sites.
- ✓ Responsible consumption and conservation of resources and energy by all governments, industries and individuals.

Action #1: Establish the Species at Risk Legislation

- In order to advance progress on the new *Species at Risk Act*, the GNWT is establishing, with political leaders, a collaborative drafting process. A joint working group, involving the GNWT and Aboriginal members is being formed, with a first meeting planned for the fall of 2005. Public consultation is anticipated by the summer of 2006, with introduction of a *Species at Risk* Bill expected by fall of 2006.

Action #2: Establish a new Wildlife Act that is consistent with land claim agreements

- A similar process as developed for the *Species at Risk Act* is anticipated for completing a new *Wildlife Act*. It is expected that a draft *Wildlife Act* will be released to public during the winter of 2007.

Action #3: Participate with partners in continuing to implement the Protected Area Strategy.

- A *Protected Areas Strategy* Steering Committee has been established.
- The Executive Director position will be staffed to coordinate interdepartmental and non-government organization activities.
- Draft critical wildlife habitat maps for use in *Protected Areas Strategy* are expected by the winter of 2007.

Action #4: Participate with partners on key elements of the NWT's Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

- A review of the *NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy* is being initiated with key government and non-government stakeholders in order to confirm GNWT strategic direction and priority work areas as they relate to climate change. In March 2005, a workshop of key northern climate change partners was hosted to review actions implemented under the *NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy*. Next steps include the development of a list of measures to be included in the revised strategy.

- A key partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance was renewed to deliver public education, energy conservation and community energy planning programs throughout the NWT.

Action #5: Develop policies and programs that facilitate the increased use of hydro-electricity, natural gas and new technologies and practices.

- The GNWT is currently negotiating a *Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change* with Canada. This MOU includes four annexes that would provide federal funding and support to advance hydro development of four rivers in the NWT – Talston River (expansion to existing hydro), Bear River, Łutselk'e River and Wha Ti River. An annex on energy efficiency is also being discussed. The GNWT and the federal government intend to sign this agreement during an international environmental conference in Montreal in early December 2005.
- The GNWT continues to work with partners to advance key hydro initiatives to reach the environmental assessment stage.

Action #6: Encourage innovation in the development, application and deployment of improved technical standards to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and to control territorial greenhouse gas emissions.

- During the fall of 2005, the GNWT will finalize the development of a discussion document on a GNWT *Energy Plan*. To date, terms of reference for this project have been approved and work has begun on the researching and drafting of this plan.

Action #7: Enter into agreements with the provinces and the federal government for the establishment of national guidelines for pollutants.

- In addition to other initiatives, such as the *Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change*, the GNWT has participated, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, on developing an Agreement in Principle on mercury emissions from coal fired electrical generation plants. Final standards should be signed off in November 2005.

Action #8: Continue to work with the federal government and other regulatory bodies in the identification and mitigation of cumulative effects of development.

- A report on a quantitative approach for regional environmental assessment in the Slave Geological Province was recently published. Baseline data necessary for monitoring cumulative impacts is being collected through the *Western NWT Biophysical Study*.
- The GNWT collaborated with Natural Resources Canada to conduct fieldwork in support of the *National Forest Inventory Program* and to update satellite land cover maps for the NWT.
- The GNWT intends to develop and implement a strategic framework for assessing and managing cumulative effects.
- Two new regional environmental protection officer positions (Inuvik and North Slave) were established in 2005.

Action #9: Enhance the local, regional and territorial capacity of governments and Aboriginal organizations to monitor and mitigate environmental impacts, and ensure environmental standards are maintained.

- The GNWT has been participating with communities, industry and the federal government in a process to develop a Multi-party Environmental Monitoring Agency. A Steering Committee was established in July 2004 to advance this initiative. This fulfills an obligation in the *DeBeers Snap Lake Diamond Project Environmental Agreement*.

Action #10: Preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the environment through the use of regulatory and non-regulatory tools.

- With regard to non-regulatory approaches, the GNWT has signed a three-year contribution agreement with Arctic Energy Alliance. The Arctic Energy Alliance has assisted in the development of a number of community based projects including:
  - Community energy plans for Norman Wells, Yellowknife and other smaller NWT communities;
  - Development of photovoltaic and wind energy options for Colville Lake and Jean Marie River; and,
  - Analysis of solar hot water heaters for the NWT Housing Corporation.
- The GNWT is currently working on the establishment of an Ingraham Trail Working Group to minimize negative impacts of human activity.
- In the near term, the GNWT will be introducing new legislation, such as the *Species at Risk* legislation, as well as implementing regulations or plans on several important initiatives including:
  - Implementation of beverage container regulations;
  - Con Mine remediation plan implementation;
  - Giant Mine remediation plan implementation;
  - A management plan for final disposal of contaminated soil on the Uranium Trail Route; and,
  - Development of the *Community FireSmart* Program.
- Early in 2004, a Development Committee was struck under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to develop a Canada-wide *Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent*. A draft strategy is planned for spring 2006 and will incorporate results of a first round of consultation.

Action #11: Participate in federal and provincial environmental negotiations for trans-boundary environmental protection concerns.

- The GNWT participates in the Mackenzie River Basin Board, a multi-jurisdictional board created pursuant to the *Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement* (1997). It is a cooperative forum for information exchange and water management initiatives that contribute to the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the Mackenzie River Basin. Last year, the board's *Prior Notification and Consultation Protocol* was developed to facilitate inter-jurisdictional sharing of information on development projects and other initiatives that may impact neighboring jurisdictions' water resources. In June 2004, the board released its first *State of the Aquatic Environment* report.

- Similar to the *Yukon-NWT Transboundary Water Management Agreement*, negotiations are underway for a bilateral agreement with Alberta.

Action #12: Pressure the federal government and industry to complete the cleanup of contaminated sites.

- In March 2005, the GNWT signed a Cooperation Agreement with Canada to provide for the remediation of the Giant Mine site. The GNWT contribution is $23.75 million over 10 years; the federal government contribution is between $275-300 million over the same period. All other costs to complete this $300 million plus project are the sole responsibility of the federal government.

Action #13: Encourage the incorporation of cost-effective innovation, best-available technologies and clean energy sources into government and other operations.

and

Action #14: Encourage the conservation of resources at all levels.

- Through an *Energy Conservation Program*, the GNWT has helped to support approximately 20 projects with a total budget, from all sources, of over $1million. Projects have included:
  - Fort Smith heat-load electrification;
  - Solar grid connection in Jean Marie River; and,
  - Solar hot water in Ft. Resolution.
- GNWT ongoing funding of the *Energy Conservation Program* was $220,000 in 2005/06. One-time funding of a further $250,000 is being proposed in October 2005.
- The GNWT is also implementing a short-term energy conservation communications strategy.

Action #15: Continue to work with communities to implement waste recycling programs and initiatives.

- The GNWT is implementing a *Beverage Container Recovery Program* with depots in at least eight communities serving the majority of NWT residents.
- The regulations for this act have been drafted and will come into force on November 1, 2005.